

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of the claims will replace all prior versions, listings, of claims in the application:

Claims 1-4 (canceled)

Claim 5 (previously presented): A method for optimizing the maintenance of assets and production comprising:

a) acquiring at least one maintenance trigger indicative that a maintenance action is or may be required for at least one of said assets;

b) defining a maintenance schedule for said maintenance action; and

c) transmitting in response to said defined maintenance schedule a blocking order requesting a time to perform said maintenance action to a system that schedules said production.

Claim 6 (previously presented): The method of claim 5 wherein said production scheduling system produces a production schedule and said method further comprises said production scheduling system determining the possibility of fitting said blocking order time for performance request into said production schedule.

Claim 7 (previously presented): The method of claim 6 wherein said at least one maintenance trigger is acquired either by being received at or generated by a computerized maintenance management system and said method further comprises said production scheduling system transmitting a confirmation to said computerized maintenance management system when said production scheduling system accepts said blocking order.

Claim 8 (previously presented): The method of claim 6 wherein said at least one maintenance trigger is acquired either by being received at or generated by a computerized maintenance management system and said method further comprises said production scheduling system transmitting to said computerized maintenance management system a new time for performance of said maintenance action when said production scheduling system cannot

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accept said blocking order.

Claim 9 (currently amended): The method of claim 8 further comprising said computerized maintenance management system ~~considers~~ considering the feasibility of said new time for performance of said maintenance action transmitted by said production scheduling system.

Claim 10 (previously presented): A method for optimizing the maintenance of assets and production comprising:

a) acquiring at least one maintenance trigger indicative that a maintenance action is or may be required for at least one of said assets;

b) requesting in response to said at least one maintenance trigger a time to perform said maintenance action; and

c) determining by use of a predetermined criteria related to said production and in response to said request for said time to perform said maintenance action a time for performance of said maintenance action.

Claim 11 (previously presented): The method of claim 10 further comprising transmitting a request for said determined time to a system that schedules said production.

Claim 12 (previously presented): The method of claim 11 further comprising said production scheduling system determining the availability of said requested determined time.

Claim 13 (previously presented): The method of claim 11 wherein said at least one maintenance trigger is acquired by being received at or generated by a computerized maintenance management system and said determining said time for performance of said maintenance action is performed in other than said production scheduling system and said computerized maintenance management system.

Claim 14 (previously presented): The method of claim 13 wherein said determining said time for performance of said maintenance action is performed by a means for optimizing assets to a predetermined level.

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Claim 15 (original): The method of claim 14 wherein said means is an asset optimization system.

Claim 16 (previously presented): The method of claim 12 wherein said determining said time for performance of said maintenance action is performed by an asset optimization system and said method.

Claims 17-18 (canceled)

Claim 19 (previously presented): A system for optimizing the maintenance of assets and production comprising:

a) a maintenance scheduling system responsive to at least one maintenance trigger indicative that a maintenance action is or may be required for at least one of said assets to define a maintenance schedule for said maintenance action; and

b) a system for scheduling production of at least a certain quantity of a certain product; and

c) means responsive to said defined maintenance schedule received from maintenance scheduling system for transmitting a blocking order requesting a time to perform said maintenance action to said production scheduling system.

Claim 20 (original): The system of claim 19 wherein said maintenance scheduling system is a computerized maintenance management system.

Claim 21 (previously presented): A system for optimizing the maintenance of assets and production comprising:

a) a maintenance scheduling system responsive to at least one maintenance trigger indicative that a maintenance action is or may be required for at least one of said assets to generate a request for a time to perform said maintenance action;

b) a system for scheduling production of at least a certain quantity of a certain product; and

c) means responsive to said request for said time to perform said maintenance action for determining by use of a predetermined criteria related to said production and said time to perform said maintenance action a time for performance of said maintenance action and transmitting said time for

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performance of said maintenance action to said production scheduling system.

Claim 22 (original): The system of claim 21 wherein said maintenance scheduling system is a computerized maintenance management system.